Finally, the member spoke about the question of the establishment of an Executive Council. As the administration of the State by one man had proved to be defective, the members of the Assembly and the public through the Press, had been repeatedly agitating for the establishment of an Executive Council in the State. To facilitate the smooth working of the existing system of Government, to ensure better confidence in them and for the alleviation of the sufferings of the people, the establishment of an Executive Council in the State had become a sheer necessity. The member requested that the country should be made fit for an honourable union with the Federated Indian Central Government by being given a well constituted Executive Council and a more representative and better equipped Legislature.

189. Political, legal and social disabilities of Ezhava Women.

SREEMATHI P. MEENAKSHI (*Nominated*) who spoke in Malayalam, said that women had been made eligible for membership in the Legislative Council and in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. But such representative institutions as the Municipal Councils, and Village Panchayat Courts were still closed to them. Such institutions should be thrown open to them. The Dewan had hoped in his Opening Address that women would be returned to the next Assembly by election. But even Ezhava men failed to come in by election and hence the chances of Ezhava women for being returned by election were fewer. Ezhava women should be given adequate representation in the Assembly by nomination.

Women were now freely entertained in all the departments. Though qualified Ezhava women had applied for appointments in all the departments, they had not been entertained yet in any of the departments, except in the Education and Medical Departments. All the Heads of Departments should be specially instructed to give preference to the claims of Ezhava women in the matter of appointments. Many Ezhava women-graduates had applied for appointment in the Education Department. When there were several equally qualified applicants for a post, the claims of the candidates belonging to the backward communities should be given preference. Ezhava women should also be exempted from the rule regarding age-bar for entertainment in public service.

Social and legal matters are closely related. There was need to represent about the High Court decisions and Government orders preceding and following the enactment of the Ezhava Regulation. But as limitations of time and the rules of the Assembly precluded an immediate examination of the question, she proposed to make a special representation to Government at an early date.

Lastly, the member expressed feelings of loyalty and gratitude to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent and concluded after thanking the Dewan.

DEWAN'S REPLY: അടുത്തകൊല്ലംമുതൽശ്രീമൂലംപ്രജാസഭയ്ക്കുസ്ത്രീ മെമ്പർ മാരെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള അധികാരംകൂടികൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് നിങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിലുള്ള സ്ത്രീകൾക്കു പ്രവേശനം ശരിയായി കിട്ടുമോഎന്നു നിങ്ങൾ സംശയിക്കയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ അങ്ങിനെ വരികയാണെങ്കിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു നാമിനേഷൻ നടത്തുന്ന സമയത്തു ആലോചിക്കാം.

നിങ്ങൾ മഹാറാണിറീജൻറു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ നേക്കു പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചകൃതജ്ഞതയേയും രാജഭക്തിയേയും ഞാൻ തിരുമനസ്സറിയിക്കാം.

[You fear that Ezhava women may fail to secure election to the Assembly. Government will consider the question when nominations are made. I shall convey to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent the feelings of loyalty and gratitude that you gave expression to.]

190. Public service, its defects and remedies therefor.

MR. A. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Parur taluk*), speakig in Malayalam, said that, though he deplored that public service in the State had degenerated on account of the unhealthy competition and communal rivalry exhibited by the various communities and sub-communities, in the scramble for offices, he could not but point out that the claims of Nairs in the matter had been completely overlooked. The member then cited some instances of Nair officers who were denied due encouragement and had to suffer consequently.

The principle of communal representation should not be accepted in the matter of promotion of Government officers. Service and efficiency should be the criterion.

The present Government had a peculiar liking for creating unnecessary appointments. The appointment of personal assistants to many of the Heads of Departments was unnecessary. The pay of the officers who required personal assistants should be reduced. Most of the officers in service were irresponsible. Their behaviour towards the public was far from satisfactory.

The Government did not care to comply with the wishes of the people; they had a peculiar knack to do just the opposite of what was required by the public. When the abolition of toll gates was insisted on, more toll gates were established. When the Medical Board was recommended to be abolished, the Ayurveda Board was also constituted. The Legislative Council passed a resolution that only an Indian should be appointed as the Director of Public Instruction and immediately the Government dispensed with the services of the Indian Director and imported a European to fill the place. The people represented about the necessity for the establishment of a dispensary at Edapally and the matter was urged both in the Assembly and in the Council. But the Government abolished a grant-in-aid *Vaidyasala* which was in existence at the place. Such instances were numerous.